

House Republican Press Release

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Kalinowski Praises Students For Attending Anti-Alcohol Leadership Camp



State Rep. Raymond C. Kalinowski, R-100th, Middletown, Middlefield, and Durham, hailed 19 Coginchaug Regional High School students who attended a four-day leadership camp to combat underage drinking.

Rep. Kalinowski praised the students for volunteering to participate in the August 2-5 camp organized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for a ninth year, held this year at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

“These young people demonstrate true leadership by learning about the dangers of alcohol abuse and bringing back that information to their schools and their communities,” said Rep. Kalinowski. “Many of the students also return to teach new campers to be leaders in this important issue.”

Deborah Reade, Durham-Middlefield director of youth and family services, accompanied local students, along with Health Teacher Liz Walsh and Middlefield Police Officer Scott Halligan.

Ms. Reade said, “The students learn a multitude of things. They break into groups to learn what it is to be a leader, to go back to their schools and to make the decision not to drink. It’s illegal to drink, and it’s illegal to drink and drive. The program teaches them what alcohol abuse can do to you; it is teaching them to go back to school and be a leader. It’s an amazing empowering opportunity for the kids.”

According to MADD Connecticut Executive Director Janice Heggie Margolis, the camp is a nationally registered MADD youth leadership program. More than 100 attended this year, as well as 30 former campers who moved up to staffers, running the alcohol-free, alcohol-awareness program. All are unpaid volunteers. Adult chaperones also participated.

Rep. Kalinowski has proposed legislation such as HB 6901, An Act Concerning Underage Drinking, which would increase penalties for adults who permits parties where underage drinking takes place or otherwise makes alcohol available to someone under 21.

He represents the 100th Assembly District of Middletown, Middlefield and Durham in the state House of Representatives.